

TULSA DAILY WORLD

Published Every Morning, Including Sunday
BY THE WORLD PUBLISHING CO.Entered at the Tulsa Postoffice as Second-Class Matter
MEMBER OF AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
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DAILY AND SUNDAY DAILY ONLY
One Year \$12.00
Six Months \$7.00
Three Months \$4.00
One Month \$1.00SUNDAY ONLY
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Bible Thought for Today

May 31

FURNISH NO FUEL—Where no wood is, there the fire goes out; so where there is no talent, the strife ceases.—Proverbs 26:20.

WHAT IS NEWS?

Under this heading The World has on several occasions ventured observations of more or less pertinence. The question of just what is news and why news is news is of quite as much importance to the public as to the newspaper profession.

An interesting contribution to the lasting symposium was made the other day by Reuters, one of the greatest and most dependable of the foreign press associations. An Australian gentleman by the name of Gordon residing in Washington for the purpose of observing the operation of the prohibition law in the United States, and with a view of advancing the prohibition law in Australia, took exception to a story which reached the Australian press through Reuters concerning the wholesale violations of the prohibition law in this country and the graft so frequently discovered in enforcement circles.

When the story reached the eyes of Mr. Gordon in Washington he depended on Reuters' Washington office very much, and demanded to know why the conservative press association was stressing the violations of the prohibition law instead of the more favorable aspects with reference to prohibition enforcement. Reuters' representative—and here is the crux of the story—replied as follows:

"The violation of any law, Mr. Gordon, is news; the observance of a law is not news; if you killed your wife, that would be news, but the fact that you live in peace and harmony with your wife is not news."

Here is an illustration of what news is and why it attains value so simple that every reading man or woman should be able to grasp it thoroughly. Let us carry the illustration a bit further: If the man who happens to kill his wife is a minister of the gospel, or a priest, then the news value of the story is magnified; or if he is distinguished in any other respect.

Labor adherents, sometimes part of the great newspaper fraternity in which every man ought to thoroughly understand the news psychology involved, not infrequently complain that unusual prominence is given a labor leader who commits a crime; and they draw from that fact, hostility to union labor. That is an absurd meanness not at all justified by the facts.

A labor leader, professing greater concern for the material welfare of his fellows than those without the union, precisely as a minister or priest professing immunity to material affairs and recognized as representatives of the meek and lowly Nazarene, when they yield to the baser qualities of human nature attain a greater dimension in the news eye of the world than an ordinary citizen committing the same act.

There are times when even a crime story attains vast dimensions because of the qualities of the story itself, but in the vast majority of cases news stories, whether of crime or any other nature, are measured by the prominence of the principal actors. For instance, plain Bill Jones' opinion of a pending political contest is not news, but the opinion of the Hon. William Jones, just elected national committeeman of his party, or elected to congress, or the governorship, immediately becomes big news. Yet the views set forth in themselves may not be of one whit more actual value than when expressed by plain old Bill Jones.

Those complaining at the prominence given them in unfavorable news, and blaming the newspapers for the misfortune, are on indefensible ground. Your worth-while, experienced newspaper man handles and weighs the day's list of news with the same dispassionate unconcern as to where it came from or who is involved, as does the assayer with his samples of ore; it is only the actual value of the product which counts. Precisely as a newspaper adheres to this policy, refusing to either suppress or garble the news, does it rise in the esteem of its readers.

MISS ALICE AN ISSUE.

The conclusion is unescapable that several female politicians and not a few candidates for office here in Oklahoma are determined to make Miss Alice Robertson an issue. Miss Alice has not met the approbation of some of the bonus men and she has failed to command the applause of the sex-conscious politicians.

O, well, these folk are not the first who have fooled with an unloaded gun to their everlasting regret. We have an idea that in comparison made with Miss Robertson by any of the female candidates running for office, the result will be—shall we say disquieting? It would be discourteous to the intelligence of this state to believe that either its men or women will hesitate in rendering a decision between Miss Alice and her critics.

A woman candidate for office, speaking at Muskogee the other day referred slightly to Miss Alice and her stand on the bonus. Doubtless the candidate felt that she was making

votes for herself. Possibly she was. But if Muskogee doesn't realize that its very greatest asset is Alice Robertson in congress, then that town has become lost to both political judgment and self-interest alike.

When any woman—or man either—makes it clearly apparent that she or he stands in opposition to the splendid things Alice Robertson stands for, that woman or that man becomes branded unfavorably, not alone in Oklahoma but throughout the nation. For Alice Robertson is now a national figure.

A DISERVICE TO BETTER GOVERNMENT.

In the following editorial paragraph the esteemed Muskogee Times-Democrat renders a most distinct disservice to the cause of better government:

Some newspapers in the state tried to make sensational politics out of the fact that when a Bartlesville bank failed it was found to contain a \$10,000 note signed by A. N. Leecraft, state treasurer. Now the note has been paid, as everyone who knew Mr. Leecraft knew would be done, but we do not hear anybody trying to rectify anything in the way of scandal.

Whether Treasurer Leecraft paid his note or not has nothing whatever to do with the point involved in this transaction; at least very little to do with it.

The point of very grave moment is that the mere fact that the state treasurer went so far afield to finance himself privately when he lives in a community whose banks hoards of their ability to finance the entire state, requires an explanation which cannot be made in terms satisfactory to the public. The mere fact that the state official who holds the disposition of millions of dollars of state funds subject to his own discretion, became a borrower of a state bank far removed from him, affords justifiable grounds for the ugly suspicion that a form of duress was used to secure the credit and that the case directly in point was not and is not the only one.

No amount of partisan argument such as the Times-Democrat puts forward, bodes that fact. This argument is off precisely the same piece of cloth as that being put forward in the Oklahoma bank case—that the three-way split of the \$25,000 does not necessarily implicate the officials who participated in that profit; the same put forth in defense of Lieutenant-Governor Trapp who made thousands of dollars out of the Seminole county bond deals and was engaged in similar deals throughout the state.

If there is to be an improvement in the public service, if this unholy and criminal alliance between banks and politicians is to be broken up, then the press of the state, irrespective of party, must stand united in condemnation of such an incident as the Muskogee Times-Democrat is here condoning in the interest of partisanship.

WONDERFUL ARKANSAS.

All of us have at one time or another taken delight in poking ridicule at Arkansas. No state has been the butt of so many jokes, been more uniformly maligned. So it is with pleasure as well as a sense of justice that we collaborate with the Chicago Journal of Commerce in presenting this splendidly inspiring picture of Oklahoma's elder sister on the east:

First, the name is properly pronounced Ark-ka-saw, with the accent on the first syllable, and the word is a French rendition of the Sioux word which means "Down-stream People." Sixty trees of commercial value grow in the state, along with 49 other species of wood. Among these are different varieties of pine, cypress, cedar, hickory, oak, maple, ash and elm, including the slippery member of the elm group, with butternut, walnut, sassafras red gum, locust, persimmon, acorn, basswood.

Her mineral products number 182, a bewildering array, including alum, blue vitriol, chalk, clay, coal, copper, diamonds, garnets, granite, gold, graphite, lead, lithographic stone, marble, ochre, petroleum, sandstone, soapstone, talc, tin pyrites, whetstone and zinc. For cheap fuel she has natural gas, crude oil, anthracite, smokeless coal and wood in abundance.

Agriculturally the state is important. She has the largest acreage in strawberries in the country—15,100. Her sweet potatoes go everywhere, even to Alaska by the carload. She grows two crops of Irish potatoes a year on the same ground, with a growing season ranging from 123 days in the northwest to 242 days in the south. In 1921 the production of rice was 5,000,000 bushels. She is second only to Colorado in cantaloupes, grows 55 varieties of apples, produces more peaches than seven crops of alfalfa a year, has the biggest peach orchard in the world, is first in grape juice, and has only 14,000 foreigners in her 1,720,000 population.

So fine are the growing seasons, and so fertile the soil, that in any section of the state the farmer can raise a crop of wheat, follow it with one of corn, and peas sown with the corn will mature before frost—three food crops annually on the same ground. Her farmers paid more income tax than any territory of the same area in the country. She has the only permanent pearl-fishing industry in the country in her more than 2,000 miles of navigable rivers, and the only producing diamond mine in America. Her pearls, selling up to \$7,500, and her diamonds weighing up to 20½ karats, are notable.

In this sketchy summary we have not touched one-tenth of the excellent features of Arkansas. To cover them all in briefest descriptive form would crowd this entire page. We have given enough, however, to justify in the minds of our readers the statement of a congressman that "only two classes of people speak of Arkansas except with praise—those who are densely ignorant or morbidly envious."

A veritable treasure house indeed! And destined to come into its very own at no distant day. The gentleman is right, only the ignorant or envious could speak disparagingly of such a state.

Uncle Sam Gompers' logic is easily followed; that much we find it easy to say of Uncle Sam. For instance Uncle Sam says the decision of the labor board cutting the wages of railway workers proves the unfitness of the board for the job it has in hand. Erro, had the board granted the railway workers an increase instead of a decrease it would have proven its peculiar fitness for the job! Isn't Uncle Sam Gompers a clear reasoner?

Fifty congressmen joined in asking a speedy vote on the house bill permitting the manufacture of 2.75 per cent cider and beer. The urgency is due to the approach of the cider season.

Oklahoma Outbursts

By OTIS LORTON.

A Tulsa man late the other night ate three nightmares but not one of them could be classed as love's young dream.

Wonder if those ministers who want the Bible taught in the public schools would skip a page when they come to where Noah got aupp after the ark landed?

The Muskogee Phoenix thinks women would be in a better position if Eve had been created from a bone in man's head instead of from a rib. In that event we probably would never have heard of a rib roast.

The girl on South Main says if her mother wants her to marry so bad as to go to the trouble of picking out a man, she can't understand why she should not make her own selection and elope with him.

Muskogee is always doing the unusual. Flowers and plants are not only robbed from the graves of the dead and resold, but the cemeteries down there are a favorite trysting place for lovers—young and old.

Speaking of the Morse-Laughtery charges by the senator from Arkansas, we note that record shows Senator Owen of Oklahoma was one of the petitioners for the pardon of the banker. This entirely removes the case from the realm of politics so far as Oklahoma is concerned.

We never did profess to know much about zoology, and when the sport writer says "Lambo quinned the force like a deer" we admit that we do not know as much as we thought. In baseball Lamb may be something like a mountain sheep, and in many respects he is a deer, but not of the antler tribe.

Anyhow, the pardon of Banker Morse seems to have put the doctors, who recommended his pardon because they found him dying, as deep a hole as the democratic senators have dugged for Attorney-General Daughtery. The only criticism we have is the attorney-general is that he did not spring the record in the first instance.

This government, he said, "has always been ready to join with the governments extending the present invitation in arranging for an inquiry by experts into the economic situation in Russia and the necessary remedies." It should be added, "that this government is most willing to give serious attention to any proposals issuing from the Genoa conference or any later conference, although it regards the 'present' suggestion as lacking in definiteness."

Barometer of Public Opinion

Leaving the Door Open.

In the exchange of diplomatic notes, such as that of Secretary Hughes declining present participation in the proposed Genoa conference, it is always well to keep beneath the more apparent emphasis. It was that way during the note-writing period of the Wilson administration. The really important points were occasionally passed over by the superficial reader, but they were easily picked out by the diplomats of Europe to whom they were addressed. Mr. Hughes appears to have the same facility, in promptly and almost brusquely declining the invitation to take part in the Russian commission at The Hague under the terms presented (which was the only impression the banker reader got from the note), he nevertheless, "left the door open for further conversations."

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This is very different from the idea that some have run off with that America has rebuffed the effort to interest us in the Russian settlement.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Sunshine and Health.

A committee of scientists is in session at London, secreting an advisory government on the effects of sunlight in health and disease. The inquiry was stimulated by the fact that 1921, one of the sunniest years England has ever had, showed the lowest death rate on record, 12.1 per 1,000 of population. A chart showing the last three months of 1921 and the first four of 1922 strengthened this conclusion. As the dark shadow rises—the lack of sunshine—the death rate mounts, not immediately, but about two weeks later, but with sufficient regularity as to indicate a causal effect.

The governmental interest is to increase the proportion of sunshine by greater efforts for smoke prevention and the elimination as far as possible of the "London particular"—the fog which hangs like a pall over the city in certain seasons. It is also proposed to make the first of "sun baths" for more general enjoyment of what sunshine there is—"the world's anti-sleep." Too many, thoughtless of the demon-strated benefits of sunshine as a germicide, take it as it comes, when their health and well-being might be immensely helped by systematic seeking for the solar radiation.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

May 31.

English newspapers and journals are full of dark forebodings about the determination of the "wild men" of Paris to force an invasion of Germany when that country on May 31 defaults on her reparations payment.

The Outlook is especially pessimistic, coming out with the forthright statement:

"Having skillfully outmaneuvered our Premier at Genoa and prevented peace with Russia, the turn now comes to the French to make war on Germany. That is the long and the short of it."

Poincare, as we know, is anxious to assert the right of France to independent action in enforcing militarily her interpretation of the treaty of Versailles—an interpretation that insists upon the turning over of complete financial control of Germany to the reparations commission.

We admit that we do not fully understand the ins and outs of the French attitude. But while we are ready to believe that the French are 100 per cent French, we are not yet quite ready to believe them 100 per cent insane.—Baltimore Evening Sun.

Plainer Speaking on Prohibition.

The reign of abuse which has kept respectable people from venturing to differ in the least particular from the dictates of the prohibition zeals is passed. Three university presidents, men of distinction, men occupying positions most sensitive to public attack, have failed to accept the prohibition formula.

Professor Fisher, of Yale, believes that a majority of students are opposed to it. Professor Hopkins of Dartmouth, believes that under the present method of enforcement it is breeding disrespect of the law. President Harry Pratt Judson, of the University of Chicago, believes that the law was premature and that "there ought to be a wider basis of public opinion before attempting any such radical change." Unquestionably prohibition as interpreted and conducted under the reign of the bigots is losing ground in public opinion. Unless a more temperate attitude is taken a strong reaction seems quite possible.—Chicago Tribune.

We Know What'll Happen at Genoa.

Columbus wasn't afraid of the trip, but perhaps the passage in the other direction is more perilous.—Charleston News and Courier.

Zero in Consolation.

Our idea of a rock in a weary land is the firm conviction that the democrats would be just as bad, if not worse, if in.—Ohio State Journal.

What Lot of Democrats Know.

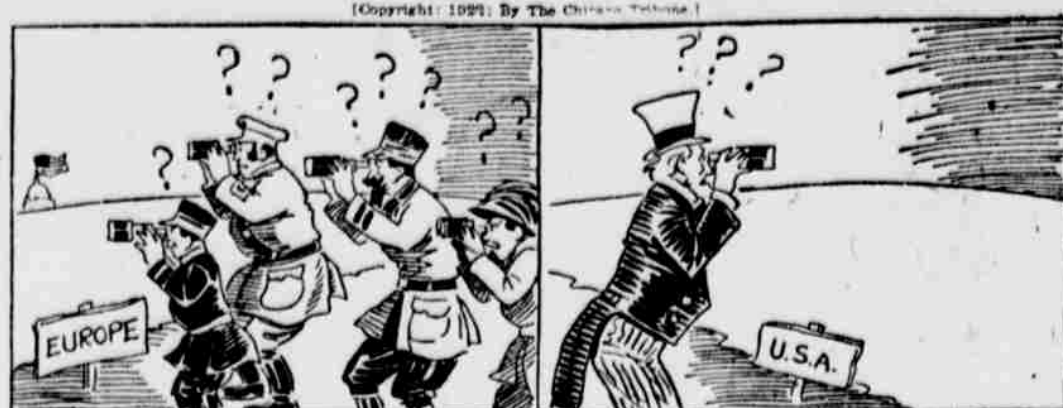
Senator Jim Reed should not worry. Woodrow Wilson's support was never a guarantee of victory.—Toledo Blade.

Out of Sight, Out of Mind.

The post-war obscurity of William Hohenzollern is excellently illustrative of the public's overestimate of unimportant men while they are holders of important offices.—Louisville Courier Journal.

THE CHANGING WORLD

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A couple of years ago they were wondering why the U. S. didn't ratify the Versailles treaty and the league covenant.



Today the U. S. is wondering why they don't ratify the Four Power Treaties.



A couple of months ago they were disappointed that the U. S. didn't take more interest in Europe.

Today the U. S. and his friend are disappointed that they are not taking more interest from Europe.

A short time ago there was violent indignation against hyphenates and hyphenates.

Today a charming hyphenate is greeted with applause.

Get Acquainted With Home First

By NORA COLE SKINNER

The Aquitania must be an airship.

Judging by the maneuvers she goes through so quickly. Seems to me every time I pick up a paper there is a picture staring out at me of Mrs. So-and-So and husband, or Miss Somebody—other off for the record, 12.1 per 1,000 of population. A chart showing the last three months of 1921 and the first four of 1922 strengthened this conclusion. As the dark shadow rises—the lack of sunshine—the death rate mounts, not immediately, but about two weeks later, but with sufficient regularity as to indicate a causal effect.

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With the production of the Passion Play coming off this year, there is some talk of taking it to Europe, and there is consolation for the rest of us that following the sojourn of so many of our opulent tourists abroad, America may get a nice fat payment on those much

talked of war debts in the near future. But otherwise it is unfortunate that the people of the United States don't inspect their own wonders before succumbing to the attraction which distance always lends.

We are used to New Yorkers thinking there is nothing west of New York, and therefore when they travel, travel by boat. We of the middle west feel we are just that much wiser than they, but even most of us are guilty of overlooking distances and imagine the eight miles away are very much superior to those within our own country.

I heard a man say that if he ever had the luck to get back to Kentucky on a visit he was going to make a bee-line for the Mammoth cave. He lived within 60 miles of it for nearly thirty years but never went any nearer. When friends out here have found him he was rated in Kentucky he is certain every single one of them has made some mention of the Mammoth cave, and he always feels like a simperton to have to tell them he never saw it.

A man and his wife on one of their eastern trips took time from business the other evening for some of the historic spots out from Washington, New York and Philadelphia, and came back home enthusiastic regarding seeing America first.

They visited the White House, the Philadelphia where Braddock stayed and had dealings with a certain Lieutenant Washington, they visited the river crossed the Delaware at Alexandria, they saw the old Masonic hall where he presided, and the bank from which he left stock that provided him with his will for our first public school.

They believe that it stimulates patriotism, it hallows history, and it wipes out ignorance.

There are sights to be seen in Europe, and it is natural that we should all like to go, but they have weathered the elements now for some centuries and they might be trusted to remain a few years longer while we—"See America First."

Every state in our union is rich in some one or two directions. We should know our own products, our own state or national parks, our own historic spots, our own natural phenomena. Then when we have reaped the benefits of these things, we should on our great west, in New England, the old south and on the great lakes to keep us busy as long as the money lasts.

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